

DR. ADELAIDE E. GILLARD



"TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE"

Shakespeare's Hamlet Act 1, Sc.3





EULOGY

**The First Eulogy at Dr. Gillard's Memorial Service at
St. Matthias Church, Montreal, November 26th, 1991**

Delivered by Joan (Price) Winser, KHC '43

Miss Gillard (known to thousands around the world as "Gilly") always referred to King's Hall Compton girls as "her girls." In other words, we were and still are "Gilly's girls," and how privileged and honored we are to be known as such.

I always loved, when we were at Compton, how behind her back we called her Gilly... but never to her face. It was always Miss Gillard! Our much revered and beloved Head Mistress — Gilly, was reserved for when we graduated!

Memories and so many of them...

Remember her words to us in the gym after prayers each morning? And I think, all too often, we looked on them as lectures. But how apt they were. To be tolerant and generous, to take on leadership roles and to have respect for others — this was her creed and, I know, we have always tried never to let her down.

And, oh yes, remember Gilly, the disciplinarian, when we misbehaved? Crock walks, order marks, running around the gym, copying from the dictionary, and sometimes having to miss the Saturday night entertainment? But all such punishments were handed out with fairness — that was Gilly's style.

She floored us in so many ways — her sentimentality, her boundless energy, her interest in the world around and her love of the outdoors. And we all know that when a teacher can make Latin exciting, she is the very best.

What an incredible memory she had. She never forgot a detail, especially those about "her girls", and this stayed with her to the very end.

She gave so much to all who came into contact with her; she was a teacher, a leader, a friend and much loved by all.

She was King's Hall and it will be a long time before there is another like her.

We will remember a great lady who played an important part in our lives. Our Miss Gillard — affectionately known as Gilly.

EULOGY

The Second Eulogy at Dr. Gillard's Memorial Service
at St Matthias Church, Montreal, November 26th, 1991
Delivered by Susan M. Marpole, KHC '63

It's so good to see you all here!

All of us feel the loss of such a great lady who not only loved, nourished and cherished her "girls", but touched the hearts of so many people, including the "boys".

I have borrowed, and I use this word liberally, from the little book called *Yours Affectionately*, a collection of letters written by Gilly during her years as Headmistress at King's Hall. The book of letters and anecdotes was assembled by Diana (Schwartz) Pringle, Flora McD. Baptist, Mary Morris, Gladys Keyzer and Margaret Anne (Forbes) Cooper. And so, with my apologies to those ladies, I am taking the liberty of sharing excerpts from the book.

Gilly brought her vitality to King's Hall in 1930 and it lasted for thirty-eight years. During this era her strength of character, sense of dedication and loyalty made a deep and lasting impression on her girls. She taught us to think, to feel, to care; to assume our responsibilities as human beings and citizens and, most of all, to understand the true meaning of grace.

She was unabashedly sentimental, romantic, old-fashioned — but never puritanical nor prudish. The strength of her convictions, the consistency and passion of her idealism, never lost their footing on the ground, no matter how high their sights!

Gilly read voraciously and always shared what she thought and felt was pertinent.

Do you remember "Get up Monsieur le Comte; you have great things to do today" at Saturday morning prayers?

She continually stressed the importance of good manners;

"Allow me to introduce..."

"Look the person straight in the eye and don't shake hands like a wet fish."

"Serve to the left — clear to the right."

She encouraged us to speak in gentle tones, to hold our heads high — "Stand up straight and be proud of your bosom", to be good sports

and to be trustworthy — "to thine own self be true" — to keep troth! The central and inescapable experience of exposure to Gilly was and shall remain her moral impact on us.

How can one person express for all, the contribution that Gilly made to each of us. To her, we were never just a group of human beings consigned to her care. Each of us has been and is today a very special person.

Remember sitting and sunbathing on Windy Hill; sneaking a cigarette; laughing when we saw how silly everyone looked crying at a Saturday movie; Gilly reading *The Christmas Carol*; the tea dances and the "formal" and being paired off at the foot of front hall stairs and watching those "boys" counting then racing to the back of their line; metal knitting needles dropping on the gym floor during Saturday morning prayers; and some of Gilly's proverbial sayings:

"You're on your honour!"

"We wouldn't want you to be good all the time!"

"A lady WILL clean the bath after her, others MUST!"

"If you want the floor, take it, but I'm not going to compete with you!"

"Do you do that at home?"

"I can't learn your vocabulary for you!"

"Most people want to be famous, YOU are notorious!"

"Don't treat your house like a hotel on holidays."

"Your mouth looks like the open door of a blast furnace."

All of these everyday little things combined to create the special feeling of our years at King's Hall.

The following from *Yours Affectionately* sums it all up and I quote,

We think of her warm responsiveness, her absolute fairness, her tolerance and deep understanding, her high ideals, her integrity, and, at all times, her awareness that affection will accomplish far more than severity. It is impossible to sum up the qualities that make a person great — selflessness, dedication, a genuine warmth, an understanding of others. Many may have these qualities and yet are not recognized as great. Gilly had these qualities and more. In her thirty-eight years as Headmistress of King's Hall, thousands of us had the opportunity to meet and know Gilly and to appreciate her serenity, her endless patience, her genuine concern for the welfare of each of us as an individual. I won't forget as I'm sure you won't, the warmth of her welcome, nor her famous smile.

On behalf of the Gillard Lectures and Debates Committee, thank you all for coming to pay tribute to a great lady, our Gilly.

EULOGY

**The Eulogy at Dr. Gillard's Memorial Service
at Grace Church on the Hill, Toronto, December 4th, 1991
Delivered by Margot (Graham) Heyerhoff, KHC '69**

We are all here today to celebrate the life of an extraordinary woman, who was born on this day one year short of a century ago — Dr. Adelaide Gillard, whom we knew as Gilly.

In commemorating Gilly's life, we think of the scores of people she influenced, directly or indirectly, by way of her outstanding attributes. We think of those with whom she came in contact during her early days, teaching in a one-room school house in Saskatchewan, or in her years studying at the University of Toronto or later teaching at Toronto's St. Clement's School. We think of those she knew during her thirty-eight years as Headmistress of King's Hall and in the near quarter century she spent in "retirement" in North Hatley.

Indeed, Gilly's sphere of influence was vast and still continues to ripple outward, as we, in turn, pass on her high standards to others.

But what was it about Gilly that makes us all hold her and all she stood for so dearly in our hearts and minds? Perhaps some of the answers can be found in a game that I sometimes play, by finding a descriptive word for each letter in a person's name such as "Gilly":

"**G**" is for **giving** as Gilly certainly understood that sincere involvement makes all the difference in life.

"**I**" stands for **integrity**, a trait which was so much a part of Gilly, and one she hoped that we would all possess, which would carry us honourably through life.

"**L**" brings to mind **loving**, a characteristic which Gilly was only too willing to share with each of us, no matter how difficult we made it for her.

"**L**" denotes **learning**, to which Gilly devoted her entire life, believing that to stop acquiring knowledge was to cease living.

"**L**" — I'm cheating a little by adding an extra "L" as any memory of Gilly is incomplete without hearing her **laughter**.

"**Y**" without hesitation describes her **youthfulness**. Gilly never tarried in the past but always lived each moment with tremendous energy and enthusiasm, always anticipating what tomorrow might bring.

Gilly was so many things, all melded together, leaving each of us with our own memories of her. "Until we meet again," Gilly, we thank you.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Adelaide E. Gillard

Born in London, England, in 1892, Miss Gillard was brought up in Manitoba from the age of eleven. She attended Normal School in Regina, and began her teaching career at the age of seventeen in a one-room school house on the Prairies. It was a rugged life, and many times her great resourcefulness was tested.

Coming east she spent a period of time at Trinity College, University of Toronto, receiving several bursaries and the Governor General's Silver Medal twice. Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree, she taught at St. Clements School for Girls in Toronto until 1930. For thirty-eight years thereafter, Miss Gillard was the Principal and guiding force behind King's Hall in Compton, Quebec.

In 1961, Miss Gillard was awarded an honorary degree from Bishop's University Lennoxville, for her outstanding leadership in the scholastic world, and for her great contribution to the cause of education in her capacity as Principal of King's Hall.

In 1967, Gillard House, a residence for the students and staff, was officially opened. Upon this occasion, Dr. Gillard received the order of Scholastic Merit in recognition of the devotion, dignity and distinction with which she has served the cause of education. When King's Hall amalgamated with Bishop's College School, the first new residence for girls was named Gillard House, and the prize for the outstanding girl in the School was called the Gillard Award. Since the early 1980's, Old Girls from King's Hall have organized and sponsored the Gillard Lectures and Debates — an endeavour designed to honour Dr. Gillard and to promote the high ideals for which she stood.

Since leaving King's Hall in June of 1968, Dr. Gillard enjoyed an active retirement in North Hatley until she died on November 14th, 1991, just two weeks short of her 99th birthday.

